United Nations S/PV.6535

Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6535th meeting

Friday, 13 May 2011, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Araud	(France)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ms. Čolaković
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Tian Lin
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	Gabon	Mr. Messone
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	India	Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Nigeria	Mr. Onemola
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	South Africa	Mr. Crowley
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Sheard
	United States of America	Ms. Rice

Agenda

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Letter dated 11 May 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/297)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Letter dated 11 May 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/297)

The President (*spoke in French*): Unless I hear any objection, under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure I invite the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to participate in this meeting.

It is so decided.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2011/299, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by France and Lebanon.

I wish to also draw the attention of Council members to documents S/2011/297 and S/2011/295, containing letters from the Secretary-General dated 11 May 2011 and 9 May 2011, respectively.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it.

I shall first call on members of the Council who wish to make statements before the voting.

Ms. Rice (United States of America): The United States will support the draft resolution that is before us, but we would like to highlight an important point. The aviation assets on loan to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) will be returned to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) no later than 30 June, pursuant to the draft resolution, in order to avoid destabilizing Liberia. We applaud the efforts of UNMIL's peacekeepers to continue to fulfil their duties, despite having fewer assets — a sacrifice they generously made, and which we all deemed necessary, to assist UNOCI in a time of need.

Now, as Côte d'Ivoire begins to emerge from its crisis, we must not lose focus on Liberia. As Liberia enters its electoral season, with a referendum in August and a presidential election this fall, UNMIL must be fully equipped. We, as a Council, decided that UNMIL required specific assets to fulfil its mandate, and we must honour our commitment to ensuring that it has the tools on hand to do its job.

The United States has promised to support clear, credible and achievable mandates that are fully resourced and equipped. We must not jeopardize Liberia's fragile peace even as we continue to work to consolidate the progress that we have seen of late in Côte d'Ivoire. This will be the last extension of the loan of UNMIL's assets that the United States will support, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

The President (*spoke in French*): I shall now make a statement in my national capacity.

As the Secretary-General recalls in his most recent letters to the Security Council, the Council's priority task is to stabilize Côte d'Ivoire. Reinforcements to Côte d'Ivoire of military helicopters attached to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) play an essential role in this. The main threats of subregional destabilization are now in Côte d'Ivoire. It is not the Council's job to interfere in the management of logistical peacekeeping assets by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Council has always supported UNMIL, which should continue to enjoy the resources it needs in the context of the democratic transition that began four years ago following the end of a 10-year crisis. In that spirit, on 15 June the Security Council must seize the opportunity and modalities for cooperation between UNMIL and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.

I resume my functions as President of the Council.

I shall now put the draft resolution to the vote.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Colombia, France, Gabon, Germany, India, Lebanon, Nigeria, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

The President (*spoke in French*): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1981 (2011).

I call on the representative of Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr. Bamba (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): Like all States represented here, Côte d'Ivoire welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 1981 (2001). My delegation stresses that Côte d'Ivoire is in transition and gradually emerging from the recent crisis. The security situation remains volatile, particularly in the western part of the country, and must be strengthened. We call on the Security Council to act pragmatically and flexibly in allocating resources, particularly military.

The President (*spoke in French*): The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.